



NASCO 2025
CONTINENTAL REUNION
FORT WORTH

NASCO CONTINENTAL REUNION
Renaissance Worthington Hotel
Fort Worth, Texas
April 2-4, 2025

Wednesday, April 2, 2025

9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

NASCO Board of Directors Meeting

Hosted by BNSF Railway (by invitation only)

AllianceTexas Tour *(priority to BOD & sponsors)*

4:30 – 5:30 P.M.

Registration Desk Open

Stop by, check-in and get your name badge!

5:30 – 7:30 P.M.

Rooftop Reunion Rendezvous

A rooftop Welcome Reception at the Worthington Hotel

Thursday, April 3, 2025

7:30 A.M. – 8:30 A.M.

Continental Breakfast & Networking

8:30 A.M. - 9:00 A.M.

Bienvenidos | Bienvenu | Welcome

Welcome to Fort Worth x What is NASCO

Susan Harper, Consul General of Canada in Dallas *(conf)*

Francisco de la Torre, Consul General of Mexico in Dallas *(conf)*

9:00 A.M. – 9:45 A.M.

The Spirit of Texas: Innovation, Culture and Growth

Moderator: Steve Montgomery, President, Fort Worth Chamber (conf)

The Honorable Jim Ross, Mayor, City of Arlington *(conf)*

The Honorable Manny Ramirez, Tarrant County Commissioner *(conf)*

Mike Berry, President, Hillwood *(confirmed)*



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- 9:45 A.M. – 10:15 A.M. **Framing the Future: Navigating Infrastructure Policy & Urban Economics with Adie Tomer, Senior Fellow, Brookings Institute**
- 10:15 A.M. – 10:30 A.M. Brief Break
- 10:30 A.M. - 11:45 A.M. **Beyond Borders, Beyond Politics: Exploring Global Instability, North American Elections, Security, and Their Impact on Trade Partnerships**
Moderator: Tiffany Melvin, President, NASCO (*confirmed*)

Speakers:
Dan Ujcz, Senior Counsel, Thompson Hine (*confirmed*)
Gerry Schwebel, Executive Vice President, IBC Bank (*confirmed*)
Andrea van Vugt, Chief Operating Officer and Practice Lead, Trade, Wellington Advocacy (*confirmed*)
Luis Rodriguez, Managing Partner, Monarch Global Mexico (*confirmed*)
Mark Entwistle, Privus Capital & former Canadian diplomat (*confirmed*)
David Eaton, NASCO Chairman, CPKC Railway (*confirmed*)
- 11:45 A.M. – 12:15 P.M. **Reimagining North American Economic Integration**
In an era where tariffs threaten three decades of North American economic integration, Dr. Covarrubias will examine the immediate market uncertainty costs and the long-term strategic implications for our deeply interconnected economies. Drawing from research on employment impacts across 15 states and innovative solutions like the Binational Customs Agency concept, he will outline a forward-looking vision that addresses security concerns while enhancing regional competitiveness. He will also discuss how emerging AI technologies can transform cross-border operations, creating more resilient supply chains and modernizing customs processes to meet 21st-century challenges.

Dr. Daniel Covarrubias, Director, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development, Texas A&M International University (*conf*)
- 12:15 P.M. -12:30 P.M. **North American Workforce Initiative Update**
Wes Jurey, Workforce Development Strategist, Manufacturing Skill Standards Council (*conf*)



12:30 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Luncheon: Texas and the Future of Work: Economic Trends Shaping Business in a Changing World

As Texas continues to lead in job growth and economic expansion, multinational companies face evolving workforce challenges and opportunities. This discussion will focus on the forces shaping the Texas labor market, the impact of demographic shifts, AI-driven automation, and what's planned for Texas' talent pipeline. How will Texas companies navigate workforce shortages, global competition, and shifting economic trends? This discussion will dive deep into the data and provide a forward-looking perspective on the economic future of Texas and beyond.

Moderator: Merrill Davis, Vice President, Communications, Texas 2036
(confirmed)

Speakers:

Aaron Demerson, President & CEO, Texas Economic Development Corporation (confirmed)

John Hryhorchuk, SVP of Policy, Texas 2036 (confirmed)

Pia Orrenius, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas (confirmed)

2:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Seamless Synergy: The Building Blocks of an Integrated Supply Chain

In today's rapidly evolving global economy, a well-integrated supply chain is essential for efficiency, resilience, and competitiveness. This panel brings together industry leaders and experts to explore the critical components of a seamless supply chain, from cross-border collaboration and digitalization to infrastructure and workforce development.

Moderator: Alberto Velasco, Vice President International, Economic Development Winnipeg (confirmed)

Speakers:

Carlos Llanes, CEO, Spartan Carrier Group (confirmed)

Alma Acevedo, CEO, Global Tooling Specialties (confirmed)

Ramon Concha, Partner, CCN Law (confirmed)

Lusine Atayan, Director of Logistics & Distribution, Mary Kay (confirmed)



**Highlight: The San Luis Potosi Trade Corridor: A Strategic Connection
Uniting Canada, the U.S. and Mexico**

Michele Porrino, Executive Director, WTC Industrial SLP

3:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

**Powering Progress: A North American Industry Perspective on Multi-
Modal Transportation**

As supply chains grow more complex, the integration of rail, road, air, and maritime transportation is essential for efficiency and resilience. This panel brings together industry leaders to discuss the challenges and innovations shaping multi-modal logistics across North America. From infrastructure investments to technology-driven solutions, discover how collaboration and strategic planning are driving the future of transportation.

Moderator: Ken Allen, Former NASCO Chairman and President of Bridgestone Agriculture (*confirmed*)

Speakers:

French Thompson, General Director, Public Infrastructure and Investments, BNSF Railway (*confirmed*)

Veronica Gonzalez, Director of North America Surface Transportation, Mexico, C.H. Robinson (*confirmed*)

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, Pharr International Bridge (*confirmed*)

Sergio Guajardo, Undersecretary of Sustainable Development, Competitiveness and Foreign Trade, Government of Tamaulipas (*confirmed*)

4:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Rules Rewritten: How Policy is Reshaping North America

Moderator: Jason Craig, Director of Government Affairs, C.H. Robinson (confirmed)

Speakers:

Sarah Goldfeder, Executive Director of Government Relations and Corporate Affairs, General Motors Canada (*confirmed*)

Dylan Clement, Director of International Policy, National Association of Manufacturers (*confirmed*)

Elaine Nessle, Executive Director, Coalition for Americas Gateways and



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Trade Corridors (*confirmed*)

6:30 P.M. – 9:30 P.M.

Boot Scootin' Boogie in the Stockyards
Dinner at Tannahill's Tavern & Music Hall
Hosted by Hillwood, A Perot Company

Friday, April 4, 2025

7:30 A.M. – 8:30 A.M.

Continental Breakfast & Networking
Hosted by: The Government of Canada

8:30 A.M. – 9:00 A.M.

Finding Opportunities in Crisis: Borders and the Impact of Modernized Trilateral Trade
Laura Dawson, Executive Director, Future Borders Coalition (*confirmed*)

9:00 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.

USMCA at the Crossroads: Enhancing Commerce and Competitiveness Across Borders
Moderator: Laura Dawson, Executive Director, Future Borders Coalition

Speakers:

John Dickerman, Vice President, U.S., Business Council of Canada
(*confirmed*)

Glenn Hamer, President & CEO, Texas Association of Business
(*confirmed*)

Cesar Remis, Managing Director, Trade Envoy (*confirmed*)

10:00 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.

CPKC creates capacity, prosperity and security for North American Trade with Coby Bullard, Senior Vice President, CPKC (*confirmed*)

10:30 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.

Break

11:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Future in Motion: Innovating Transportation and Technology
As technology rapidly transforms the transportation industry, innovation is driving efficiency, sustainability, and new economic opportunities. This panel will bring together experts to explore the latest advancements in smart infrastructure, autonomous vehicles, electrification, and digital supply chains.



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Moderator: Ian Kinne, Director of Logistics Innovation, Hillwood
(confirmed)

Speakers:

Torc Robotics *(confirmed)*

Darran Anderson, Director of Strategy and Innovation, Texas
Department of Transportation *(confirmed)*

Milton de la Paz, Vice President, Airline Relations and Cargo Business
Development, DFW Airport *(confirmed)*

12:00 P.M. – 12:15 P.M.

Immigration in North America

Laura Collins, Director, Bush Institute – SMU Economic Growth Initiative
(confirmed)

12:15 P.M. – 1:00 P.M.

**Gearing Up for Glory: How the DFW Host Community is Bringing the
2026 World Cup to Life**

From cultural celebrations to logistical preparations, Dallas-Fort Worth is stepping onto the global stage for the 2026 World Cup. This session explores how the region is uniting businesses, local leaders, and fans to create an unforgettable experience—both on and off the field.

Moderator: Gus Garcia, Economic Development Director, City of
Arlington, Texas *(confirmed)*

Speakers:

Noelle LeVeaux, Chief Marketing Officer, FIFA 2026 World Cup DFW
Host Team *(confirmed)*

Francisco de la Torre, Consul General of Mexico in Dallas *(confirmed)*

Mike Spiewak, Vice President of Exhibits, Perot Museum of Nature and
Science *(confirmed)*

1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

“Come to the Table” Closing Luncheon

*An invitation to come enjoy the hospitality of Saskatchewan for the 2026
NASCO Continental Reunion*

NASCO Reunion Concludes